



Sheila Dixon

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Mayor Sheila Dixon Announces Real Estate Tax Reform Panel

*Mayor Dixon to announce the goals and membership of the Blue Ribbon Committee to Study
Baltimore City's Tax and Fee Structure*

Baltimore, MD (February 15, 2007) – Today, Mayor Sheila Dixon announced the appointment of a Blue Ribbon Committee to Study Baltimore City's Tax and Fee Structure. The committee is being asked to establish recommendations for reforming the local tax and fee structure for Baltimore City.

"We need to encourage more people to make the choice to live and raise their families in Baltimore," said Mayor Dixon. "But for many people, there is one big hurdle to joining the Baltimore community – property taxes."

The Blue Ribbon Committee will be responsible for developing simple, long-term solutions to the high property tax rate, without the use of tax-incentives and rebates. The committee will:

- Analyze and report on the factors contributing to the City's high property tax rate relative to surrounding Maryland counties.
- Research and report on the legal framework for and practice of financing local government in Maryland.
- Examine the recommendations to improve measurement, monitoring, and management of the assessable tax base and equitably enhance the tax revenues to be derived from non-residential real property.
- Review the City's existing tax and fee structure, including the various tax credits and exemptions currently in place, and report on the impact the existing measures have on the goals for a model tax and fee structure.
- Recommend changes to the current tax and fee structure that maximize attainment of the stated goals.

At the press conference, Mayor Dixon announced the members of the committee and the co-chairs. The co-chairs are Joan Pratt, Baltimore City Comptroller, and Jody Landers, Executive Vice President of the Greater Baltimore Board of Realtors.

“This committee represents all of Baltimore’s stakeholders,” said Mayor Dixon. “Its members come from the business community, government, our faith community, non-profit organizations, and our many neighborhood organizations.”

The Committee is asked to present its findings and recommendations by September 18, 2007.

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